

# Brushy Creek Trail Advisory Board

## Meeting Minutes

### April 18, 2006

**Tour at 4 p.m.** Participants included Chad Kelchen, Greg Van Fosson, and Mike Tinkham. The group toured the lake trail where Chad pointed out areas of rerouting for the future all-weather rock trail.

**Meeting at 6 p.m.** Board members present included Mike Tinkham, Kristi Schaaf, and Linda Jenny. Because a majority of members were not present to conduct official business, officer elections will take place at the fall meeting. Also present were Chad Kelchen, Amber O'Neill, Steve Bell, Greg Van Fosson, Parks Bureau Chief Kevin Szcodronski, Mike Lange, and Lori Lange.

Minutes from the October 18, 2005 meeting were reviewed.

Chad gave an update on the all-weather trail. The smaller and less expensive stone seems to be working better. The entire loop around the prairie pothole has been rocked and the next stage is to go east toward the borrow pond up to the main park road near the office. Most of this year will be spent doing dirt work--rerouting, reshaping, and clearing on the lake trail.

Some grass fields in the park have been plowed this year and will be farmed for 2-3 years before being reseeded to native prairie. The new Prairie Seed Harvest building to the south of the park office is finished and they are expected to move in July 1<sup>st</sup>. They will be putting in another wildflower plot by the south lagoons.

Chad also informed the group that we applied for and received a matching grant from the Deardorf Foundation for playground equipment in the Beach Campground.

The reservation system is up and running. Kristi successfully made a reservation and said it is very user-friendly.

A new cabin prototype has been developed by Iowa Central Community College. It is still unknown whether it will be used at Brushy Creek. If not, some type of cabin kit will be purchase and placed at Brushy in the near future.

Greg asked the board members to give their comments on the following proposed changes. Staff is proposing changes to Administrative Rule 571 - Chapters 67 and 51 to address the use of horses on public lands. These amendments are intended to insure natural resource protection and management goals on public lands while allowing the continued use of horses on these

areas. Changes to Chapter 67 include the establishment of designated trails on state parks, state recreation areas, and state forests for horseback use. This rule change also restricts horseback use to designated trails, unless a special use permit is obtained for off-trail use. The changes also clarify conditions and procedures for closing trails to prevent environmental damage. Changes to Chapter 51 allow the use of horses for hunting during open hunting seasons and a season for nonorganized pleasure riding from July 15 to October 1. The use of paintball guns will be prohibited on all game management areas to be consistent with state parks and recreation areas.

Bottom line if these changes are adopted it will bring more consistency to trail management between the three bureaus Parks, Forestry, and Wildlife. General comments from the board were that the group agreed that the trail policy needed to be made consistent because some state forest trails have greatly deteriorated. They also expressed concern about having a reliable source of knowing whether trails are open or closed in other areas, like the answering machine message we use at Brushy Creek. In the future there may be a place on the reservation website where trail status across the state can be updated.

Mike questioned Kevin on any progress in changing the Trail Advisory Board three year legislative appointment process to conservation commission approved appointments. He stated there was not because one TAB member was strongly opposed to the idea. We will bring it up once more for open discussion this fall and take a vote on whether to proceed with the idea.

The next TAB meeting will be October 17, 2006 with a tour at 4 p.m. and meeting at 6 p.m.

Meeting ended 7:45.